



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

James S. Mize, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

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On motion of Supervisor Dana, seconded by Supervisor Edelman, unanimously carried, the Registrar-Recorder's attached recommendation to adopt a policy regarding election consolidation was continued one week to December 1, 1981.

Supervisor Dana made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Edelman, unanimously carried to reconsider said item.

On motion of Supervisor Dana, seconded by Supervisor Edelman, unanimously carried, the Board approved the attached recommendation of the Registrar-Recorder regarding election consolidation.

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NOV 24 1981



REGISTRAR-RECORDER COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

5557 FERGUSON DRIVE — P.O. BOX 30450, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90030 / (213) 725-5850

LEONARD PANISH
REGISTRAR-RECORDER

CHARLES WEISSBURD
CHIEF DEPUTY

November 12, 1981

HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
383 Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Gentlemen:

Senate Bill 230 (Chapter 1013) was signed into law as an urgency measure concerning city election dates. This legislation authorizes general municipal elections to be held on either the same day as the statewide primary (June even-numbered years) or the statewide general (November even-numbered years) or the school district elections (November odd-numbered years). Present law specifies that city elections be held in April of even-numbered years. SB 230 further provides that any consolidation of city elections with countywide elections shall be operative only upon approval of the Board of Supervisors.

There are 61 general law cities in Los Angeles County that can avail themselves of this legislation and consolidate their elections with Los Angeles County. The motivation for this legislation is that consolidating city elections with countywide elections creates a potential for the cities of lower election costs and increased voter turnout. These consolidations, however, would have a significant impact on the County's capability of conducting countywide elections. Although it might be possible to accommodate a limited number of consolidations, the department cannot assure the Board, nor the cities, that the capacity of the existing system would not be exceeded. It has to be assumed that eventually most, if not all, of the cities would seek the advantages of the countywide ballot.

To provide an increased capability that would assure sufficient capacity for general law cities to consolidate with either a primary or general election would require a major expansion of the current system. An expanded system would have to accommodate as many as 1500 or more candidates. It would necessitate two mailings of election materials to voters and the casting of two ballots per voter at the polling place. The system would require the capability of collecting, processing and tallying about five million ballots on election night. There is no known system at this time that would permit an election of this magnitude to be conducted on a single ballot. The cost of increasing the resources required for such an enormously expanded system would be several millions of dollars--assuming that an effective system could be devised.

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Senate Bill 230 does provide an alternate date for consolidating municipal elections with school district and uniform district elections, which are scheduled in November of the odd-numbered years. A consolidation of city measures and candidates with these elections would not jeopardize the capacity of the existing election system, nor require the acquisition of additional voting equipment.

The Los Angeles County Election Commission, at its meeting on November 12, 1981, unanimously moved to support the department's recommendations.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Your Honorable Board adopt a policy providing that municipal elections not be consolidated with either the primary or general elections of the even-numbered year.
2. That municipalities be authorized, upon request, to consolidate city elections with school district elections held in November of each odd-numbered year.

Very truly yours,



LEONARD PANISH
Registrar-Recorder

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